

## First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun

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### **First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun Reiterates Call for New Mineral Legislation that Respects Aboriginal and Treaty Rights**

*A significant amount of work is needed between Indigenous Governments and Yukon Government to develop a framework for new mineral legislation*

**April 11, 2025—Mayo, Yukon:** The First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun (“FNNND”) is deeply concerned significant work is necessary on a draft framework for new mineral legislation, to ensure it reflects FNNND’s rights, interests, and priorities. A draft framework has been developed through negotiations between Indigenous Governments and Yukon Government but it falls short of FNNND’s objectives.

“For too long, our Traditional Territory has been ground zero for mining,” FNNND Chief Dawna Hope said. “We are still grappling with the catastrophic failure at Eagle Gold Mine, which continues to leak cyanide and other toxins across our lands and waters. In addition, our Traditional Territory has over 82,000 quartz mining claims and countless placer operations—all of which combine to affect the way we exercise our rights and traditional ways of living. Enough is enough. We need to co-govern mineral activity with public government, in line with the spirit and intent of our treaty.”

The FNNND Final Agreement commits to co-managing the Traditional Territory with FNNND and public government together in partnership. This is a core pillar of the treaty that has not been lived up to in the three decades since it was adopted.

“New mineral legislation must reflect a fundamental shift in the way mining happens in the Yukon,” Chief Hope said. “When millions of tons of ore fall off a mountain in the heart of our Traditional Territory, we must come together with public government to say never again. Never again should mining activity be authorized solely by public government. Never again should mines be inspected solely by public government. Never again should mining activity be managed solely by public government. Indigenous Governments must be recognized as the rightful partners in governance that we are.”

In addition to ensuring new mineral legislation reflects co-management, FNNND seeks to ensure Indigenous Governments’ approval be required in reclamation and closure decisions. Indigenous Governments must also have a role in declaring emergencies and managing mining-related disaster responses. FNNND is also calling for existing mineral claims to be regulated under the new regime. Lastly, the new mineral regime must protect ongoing and future land use planning processes to ensure that development does not undermine planning efforts.

At an FNNND General Meeting held February 15, 2025, FNNND citizens unanimously adopted a resolution calling on Yukon Government to update its antiquated mining laws. FNNND understands a Chiefs Committee on Mining meeting will occur on Friday, April 11 with Premier Pillai, Minister Streicker, and Chiefs. FNNND considers such a meeting premature, as FNNND is still reviewing and considering the latest draft of the framework, which was shared with Chiefs only on April 4.

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